

21

1. ~~Mr. Maston~~ ~~B.415~~
2. ~~Dr. Didsbury~~ ~~C.407~~
3. ~~Mr. Morley Parry~~ ~~A.419~~
4. ~~Mr. Perry~~ ~~A.405~~
Library

RURAL DISTRICT OF SEISDON
(STAFFORDSHIRE)



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1966

Council Offices,
WOMBOURNE,
Wolverhampton.

Tel. No. : WOMBOURNE 2454-8

SEISDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1966)

Chairman :

Councillor J. C. SALMON

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor L. J. A. BENNETT

L. M. DENT, J.P. (Chairman of the Council).

D. R. HOUSDEN (Vice-Chairman of the Council).

W. K. WRIGLEY (Deputy Chairman of the Council).

Councillors L. GRAFTON
F. HIGGINS
J. T. HILL
J. INCH
A. JEFFRIES
G. A. JEFFRIES
W. R. JENNINGS
A. W. KWIATOWSKI
Miss E. E. LAURIE
H. F. McTAGGART
K. E. MACKIE
E. J. NICKLIN
F. J. OXFORD, J.P., C.A.
P. F. PATEMAN
H. G. PORTEOUS
T. PREECE
M. STONESTREET
J. W. TIMMS

SEISDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH PERSONNEL

<i>Name</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>	<i>Duties</i>
-------------	-----------------------	---------------

Medical Officer of Health :

ALAN R. KENNEDY	B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	(1) Medical Officer of Health (Seisdon R. D. C.) for 5/11ths of the week.
-----------------	--	---

(2) Assistant County Medical Officer (Staffordshire County Council) for 6/11ths of the week.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

E. H. ROBERTS, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Food Inspection.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

H. F. ROBINSON, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Food Inspection.

Deputy Cleansing Superintendent and Additional Public Health Inspector :

G. DRAYCOTT, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Food Inspection, Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

E. F. KELLY, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Food Inspection.

(Duties of P.H.I.'s: Statutory Duties prescribed by Sanitary Officer's Regulations; Public Cleansing; Petroleum and Shops Acts.)

Pupil Public Health Inspector (commenced 1/4/66) :

C. R. WEAVER

Clerical Staff :

D. NALLY
Mrs. J. BERWICK

Miss J. WOODWARD
Mrs. K. I. BAKER

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1966

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Seisdon Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1966.

This Report is drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health in their Circular of January, 1967.

The Report deals with Public Health subjects in **Sections** as follows :—

- A** Statistics affecting the Rural District.
- B** General Provisions of Health Services in the Rural District.
- C** Sanitary accommodation of the Rural District.
- D** Housing in the Rural District.
- E** Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- F** Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.
- G** Tuberculosis.

and it concludes with the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector on those matters which fall within his sphere of activities.

I have only recently joined the Public Health Department and the work to which the report refers was carried out under the leadership of the late Dr. Alan R. Kennedy, whose unfortunate death was a great loss to the Rural District as a whole, and his colleagues will miss his valued help and advice.

The statistics of birth rates and of mortality rates continue to be good, and compare favourably with the National figures. The statistics of the incidence of infectious diseases are very good. However, the large outbreak of Influenza, which affected Wombourne Comprehensive School during the later part of January 1966 when 400 children were away on one day serves to remind us that overcrowding must be avoided if we wish to prevent the spread of such diseases. The next epidemic may not be a mild influenza, but a more serious disease, which could have severe consequences. The County Council have been made aware of the overcrowding in several schools and urged to improve the situation.

It appears from the statistics, that still a small number of children are not getting their primary injections and reinforcements doses, therefore the campaign of Health Education should be continued, to make young parents aware of the facilities available.

I am sure that Dr. Kennedy would have wished me to take this opportunity of thanking various persons for their co-operation and advice during the past year and record particular appreciation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, Mr. A. R. Baskett, Clerk and Chief Financial Officer of the Rural District Council, Mr. F. Bagley, Engineer and Surveyor to the Rural District Council and Mr. E. H. Roberts, Chief Public Health Inspector to the Rural District Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. F. DUKES

September, 1967.

SECTION A

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Growth of Population

Registrar General

<i>Persons</i>			<i>Persons</i>	
1/7/64	40,690		+	870
1/7/65	41,350		+	660
1/7/66	38,550		—	2,800

HOUSES

Total number of inhabited houses in the Rural District :—

1st April, 1965	..	..	13,024
1st April, 1966	..	..	11,630
1st April, 1967	..	..	11,983

Sum represented by a penny rate 1965-66—£6,194

1966-67—£5,705

1967-68—£6,095

Rateable Value 1965-66—£1,464,698

1966-67—£1,405,629

1967-68—£1,454,228

General Rate 1965-66—9/- in the £

1966-67—11/4d. in the £

1967-68—11/11d. in the £.

(plus additional items in certain Parishes varying from 2d. to 4d.)

Area : 43,495 acres, *i.e.* 68 square miles.

VITAL STATISTICS 1966

Live Births :				Males	Females	Total
Total	..	..	..	355	353	708
Legitimate..	..	..	..	344	337	681
Illegitimate	..	..	..	11	16	27

Still Births :				Males	Females	Total
Total	..	..	..	6	3	9
Legitimate..	..	..	..	6	3	9
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :

				Males	Females	Total
Total	..	..	..	8	7	15
Legitimate..	..	..	..	7	6	13
Illegitimate	..	..	..	1	1	2

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age :

				Males	Females	Total
Total	..	..	..	5	6	11
Legitimate..	..	..	..	5	5	10
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	1	1

Deaths of Infants under one week of age :

				Males	Females	Total
Total	..	..	..	4	4	8
Legitimate..	..	..	..	4	3	7
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	1	1

	Seisdon R.D.C. 1965	Seisdon R.D.C. 1966	England & Wales 1966
Number of Live Births	762	708	—
Rate per 1,000 population	18.42	18.3	17.7
Illegitimate Live Births (% of total live births)	3.3%	3.8%	—
Number of Stillbirths	10	9	—
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.. ..	12.95	12.7	15.3
Total Live and Still Births	772	717	—
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	21	15	—
Infant Mortality Rates—Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	27.56	21.2	19.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	24.4	18.3	—
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	120	74	—
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	18.4	15.5	12.9
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)	15.7	11.1	11.1
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 total live and still births	28.5	23.7	26.3
Maternal Mortality (including abortion) number of deaths	Nil	Nil	—
Comparability Factor (Births)	0.83	0.83	—
Standardised Birth Rate	15.3	15.2	—
Domiciliary Births	43.0% 327	41.9% 297	—
Includes—Kinver Sub-District	37	—	—
Codsall Sub-District	143	—	—
Wombourne Sub-District	147	—	—
Hospital Births	435	411	—

DEATHS

	1965 Seisdon	1966 Seisdon	1966 England and Wales
Deaths (at all ages) :			
Total for Seisdon	313	288	—
Males	174	150	—
Females	139	138	—
Death Rate per 1,000 population.. ..	7.56	7.46	11.7
Comparability Factor	1.39	1.38	—
Standardised Death Rate	10.5	10.3	—
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil	Nil	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	49 M. 27 F. 76 Total	29 M. 32 F. 61 Total	—
Live Births exceeded total deaths by ..	449	420	—

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1966

	M.	F.	Total
Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	4	9
Malignant neoplasm, Lung, bronchus ..	12	3	15
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	7	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3	3
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	14	26
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1	1
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	20	25	45
Coronary disease, Angina	31	27	58
Hypertension with heart disease	1	—	1
Other heart disease	12	9	21
Other circulatory disease	5	1	6
Influenza	3	—	3
Pneumonia	10	10	20
Bronchitis	10	9	19
Other disease of respiratory system ..	1	2	3
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	3	—	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Congenital malformations	3	2	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	12	12	24
Motor vehicle accidents	6	1	7
All other accidents	1	3	4
Suicide	—	1	1
Totals	150	138	288

BIRTH RATES

	SEISDON		England and Wales
Year	No. of Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate
1963	786	16.4	18.2
1964	720	14.7	18.4
1965	762	15.3	18.0
1966	708	18.3	17.7

DEATH RATES

	SEISDON			England and Wales
Year	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Standardised Death Rate	Death Rate
1963	310	7.8	10.96	12.2
1964	294	7.23	10.2	11.3
1965	313	7.56	10.5	11.5
1966	288	7.46	10.3	11.7

LOCALITY-DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(excluding Tuberculosis) notified in 1966

Disease	TOTAL	Bobington	Codsall	Enville	Himley	Kinver	Lower Penn	Patshull	Pattingham	Swindon	Trysull and Seidon	Wombourne	Wrottesley
Scarlet Fever	17	—	8	—	—	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	4
Whooping Cough	12	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	2
Measles	376	1	38	10	1	111	3	8	38	7	7	72	80
Pneumonia	8	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4
Dysentery	18	—	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	12

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1966

Deaths from causes stated, and at various ages, under one year of age

Cause of Death	Under 1 week.	1 to 2 weeks.	2 to 3 weeks.	3 to 4 weeks.	Total under one month.	1 to 3 months.	3 to 6 months.	6 to 9 months.	9 to 12 months.	Total deaths under one year.
Prematurity	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Uraemia	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Heart Disease ..	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Cystic Disease of Lungs ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Laryngo-Tracheitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Malformation, Kidney ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Malformation, Cerebral ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia, Broncho ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Congestive Cardiac Failure	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Meningitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	8	2	1	—	11	1	—	2	1	15

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

Year	SEISDON			England and Wales Rate per 1,000 Births	Average (Seisdon) for last 5 years
	Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births		
1962	766	20	26.1	21.6	20.4
1963	786	20	25.4	20.9	22.9
1964	720	10	13.9	20.0	21.0
1965	762	21	27.6	19.0	22.1
1966	708	15	21.2	19.0	21.0

PERI-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

(i.e., stillbirths, plus deaths of infants under one week of age, per 1,000 total live births and still births).

			England and Wales	Seisdon R.D.
1962	..	..	30.8	28.3
1963	..	..	29.3	32.4
1964	..	..	28.2	21.9
1965	..	..	26.9	28.5
1966	..	..	26.3	23.7

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

Voluntary Services—Meals on Wheels.

These voluntary services operate in Kinver, Wombourne and Codsall. High appreciation of the voluntary work carried out by the ladies and gentlemen of these villages in performing this service is here recorded. Also one would wish to thank the Education Committee of the Staffordshire County Council and the School Meals Service. As far as possible we have tried to use it for elderly persons who are handicapped and isolated in their own homes. The Rural District Council and the Staffordshire County Council have contributed both by advise and by financial help.

In Wombourne area the meals are prepared at the canteen of the Midland Aluminium Properties Limited, and at a very modest charge. Our grateful thanks are due to this firm for their generous and ready help. Both Meals-on-Wheels and Luncheon Club function in Wombourne and the latter commenced on the 19th October, 1965. It is our hope that as far as Wombourne is concerned we shall soon have the service of three days a week instead of two days a week. Both Meals-on-Wheels and Luncheon Club are organised and carried out by the services of the R.W.V.S. The Seisdon Round Table have given excellent help.

1965/66 Meals-on-Wheels :

Codsall	..	..	2,301 meals supplied
Kinver	..	..	1,453
Wombourne	..	..	1,353

1965/66 Wombourne Luncheon Club :

760 meals supplied

The net expenditure on the above for 1965/66 was £113 16s. 2d.

Estimates for 1966/67 :

Meals-on-Wheels	..	4,882 meals
Luncheon Club	..	2,078 ..
		<hr/>
		6,960 ..
		<hr/>

Estimated net expenditure on above £327 0s. 0d.

Clinics.

These are the responsibility of the Staffordshire County Council.

Contributions.

The Rural District Council contributes financially to the following organisations :—

The Chest and Heart Association.
The Central Council for Health Education.
Dudley and District Family Planning Association.
Bilston and District Family Planning Clinic.
Midlands Joint Advisory Clean Air Council.
Marriage Guidance Council (Wolverhampton) Branch.
National Council of Social Service.
N.S.P.C.C.
South Staffs. Council of Social Service.
Wolverhampton Samaritans.

Health and Welfare Services—Miscellaneous Problems.

The following problems were discussed by the Public Health Committee and Rural District Council in considerable detail during the year :—

February, 1966. Schools within the Rural District having defects of structure or sanitation, etc., were reported upon to the County Council during the first three months of 1966.

- (1) Codsall C. of E. School (*i.e.*, the old school occupied by the Infants Department).
- (2) St. Benedict's C. of E. School Wombourne (*i.e.*, the old school occupied by the Junior Department).
- (3) Wombourne Comprehensive School.
- (4) Swindon School.
- (5) Kinver Infants School.

February, 1966. Population—The Rural District Council was to lose approximately one eighth of its population as a consequence of the re-organisation of the West Midland Authorities which was to take place on 1st April, 1966.

March, 1966. The Public Health Committee supported a subscription to the Wombourne Committee for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped.

March, 1966. A local meeting of the Royal Society of Health was held at Wolverhampton on the 3rd March, 1966. Its subject was the "Planning of Local Services for Mentally Sick Persons." This was attended by the Medical Officer of Health.

April, 1966. The building of special houses suitable for handicapped persons was discussed. Of the cost 50% was to be met by the Rural District Council and 50% by the County Council.

April, 1966 ; July, 1966 ; November, 1966. The proposed target population for Kinver is 7,000 persons. Statistics of the increasing child population at Kinver were brought to the attention of the Director of Education, Staffordshire County Council. Later in the year, in November, a meeting between the Director of Education, five Councillors of the Rural District and various County Education Officers was held concerning the future of Kinver Senior School. If one includes the outlying parts of Kinver Parish, then for the preceding two years there have been 105 births each year. In previous years up to 1964 there had been an average of 74 births each year.

April, 1966. Kinver Clinic. The re-housing of families living in old cottages on the site of the future Infant Welfare Clinic at Kinver was begun by the Housing Committee.

May, 1966. The use of the Mortuaries at Wolverhampton, or Stourbridge, were to be continued pending the outcome of the Royal Commission's report on Local Government.

March, 1966. During early 1966 and subsequent months two problem families were supervised and aided under the scheme as put forward by the County Medical Officer of Health for the Re-habilitation of Problem Families. The mother and children in each case resided for a time at a re-training hostel concerned with domestic science, etc.

June, 1966. The pollution of the Smestow brook was discussed. Later in the year on the 3rd November, 1966, a meeting was held on this same subject at which the Chairman of the Upper Stour Main Drainage Authority and some of his Officers were present together with the Public Health Committee.

June, 1966. The problems of illness and accidental deaths in the home being caused by poisoning was discussed. Ready access by small children to drugs and offensive liquids, is often the cause. In consequence the Public Health Committee asked the County Medical Officer of Health to arrange a Campaign on the subject within the Rural District. This Health Education Campaign took place between 21st and 26th November, 1966, and included visits to Schools and Clinics and by a display van to Public Meeting Places.

June, 1966. The Royal Society of Health held its Annual Conference at Blackpool in April, 1966. This was attended by the Medical Officer of Health and a report was submitted.

June, 1966. The Ambulance Service for the Rural District is at present divided between Wolverhampton County Borough and Dudley County Borough. Dudley County Borough supplies ambulances for Swindon, Bobbington, Enville and Kinver.

July, 1966. Statistics of populations of school children, especially in relation to the Kinver, Codsall and Wrottesley areas, were submitted.

July, 1966. A joint report on a Programme of Smoke Control was presented by the Chief Public Health Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1966. A Sub-Committee for the Co-ordination and Prevention of Child Neglect and Ill-treatment was held in the Council Offices on the 13th June, 1966. This is a Sub-Committee of the Area Health Committee and relates to children within Seisdon Rural District. Officers of various departments were present. The continuance of the meeting of this Sub-Committee on a basis of once in three months is envisaged.

September, 1966. Representations to the Staffordshire County Council and to the local Member of Parliament were made concerning the urgent need for the building of an Infant Welfare Clinic at High Street, Kinver.

October, 1966. Copies of a Re-print from the Reader's Digest on the subject of Prevention of Dental Decay by Fluoridation of water supplies were circulated to the Members of the Public Health Committee and of the Rural District Council.

October, 1966. A Special Meeting of the Public Health Committee was held in relation to the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, to consider whether registration of a particular Dairy under the above Regulations should be refused or not.

November, 1966. A report on some lectures at the University of London being part of a Refresher Course organised by the Society of Medical Officers of Health was presented to the Public Health Committee by the Medical Officer of Health.

December, 1966. The construction of the first new Hostel for Old Aged Persons had begun at Duck Lane, Bilbrook. This construction was the responsibility of the Staffordshire County Council. There being a real need for a second new Hostel to be built within the Rural District, probably at Wombourne, the subject was discussed further at this Public Health Committee and representations were made to the County Council.

Health Education.

The distribution of posters to Schools, etc., within the Rural District on the general subjects of Health Education, Smoking and Health, and other related subjects, is regularly undertaken.

SECTION C (1)

I am indebted to Mr. F. Bagley, C.Eng., M.I.Mun.E., A.M.I. C.E., the Council's Surveyor, for the following report on Rainfall, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, Water and Housing. The report is dated 17th February, 1967.

RAINFALL

The average rainfall over the Seisdon area during 1966 was 33.56 inches, which is the highest for several years. The wettest month was June with 4.27 inches and there was also higher than average rainfall during the autumn. The average rainfall in 1965 was 29.58 inches and 19.24 inches in 1964. The average rainfall for the standard 25 years period 1891-1915 is 27.14. inches

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Difficulties continue to be experienced in obtaining the standard of effluent required by the Severn and Trent River Authorities in respect of the Kinver, Wombourne and Codsall Sewage Disposal Works and it has been necessary to continue the suspension of building operations in the parishes concerned until the deficiencies in treatment at these works have been rectified. Good progress has been made on the £170,000 extensions to the Codsall Works and it seems that the Contract date for completion, *i.e.*, January, 1968, will be easily complied with by the Contractor. In this respect the Contractors have been assisted by the exceptionally mild and dry period of the winter months.

Detailed preparation of the design for the Wombourne S.D.W. extensions, at an estimated cost of £300,000 are now well advanced and it is anticipated this scheme will be submitted for approval to the Ministry in June, 1967. Until the work is completed, as a temporary expedient, experiments have been conducted in re-circulating the effluent from the humus tanks through the percolating filters, and also by the provision of wedge wire strainers in the humus tanks. These measures have succeeded in improving the effluent and it is anticipated will satisfy the Severn River Authority until the permanent extensions have been completed.

Work has also commenced on the preparation of a scheme for extending the Kinver S.D.W. and in consequence of complaints received from the Severn River Authority it has now also been necessary to take temporary steps to improve the effluent pending the completion of permanent works. In this case an upward flow clarifier with a wedge wire base has been fitted.

WATER

No major schemes for the laying of water mains were undertaken during 1966, because as previously stated practically all the outlying properties on the western boundary of the District have now been provided with a piped water supply. With the exception of the chlorinator fitted on the private Enville supply at Cox Green all chlorination plants have continued to work satisfactorily and steps have now been taken to arrange for the Cox Green chlorination plant to be regularly serviced by agreement with the makers. The Kinver water supply continues to be under the control of the District Council although it is anticipated that it will be taken over by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking and the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company in October, 1967.

HOUSING

During 1966, eight Council houses were completed, making a total of 3,076 completed since 1945. Road and sewer works have been completed at Brockley's Walk, Kinver, and good progress is being made with the erection of 63 dwellings which is the first phase of the scheme. In addition 316 private houses were completed as compared with 243 in 1965.

SECTION C (2)

WATER SUPPLIES

The Ministry of Health classify drinking water into:

*Presumptive coliform
count for 100 ml.*

Class One	..	Highly satisfactory	..	Less than 1
Class Two	..	Satisfactory	.. ..	1—2
Class Three	..	Suspicious	.. ..	3—10
Class Four	..	Unsatisfactory	.. ..	More than 10

In a year 50% of samples should come into Class 1.

80% of samples should come into Class 1 or 2.

the remaining 20% of samples should not be below Class 3.

Chlorinated piped supplies ought *all* to come into Class 1.

The Public Health Department has itself maintained an intensive series of bacteriological tests on the water supplies of the District. In addition, the Water Undertakings have taken their own tests.

The water supply of the District has been mainly provided by the following four water undertakings (reading from north to south of the Rural District) :—

- (a) Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking, which supplies the Parishes of Codsall, Wrottesley, Wrottesley (Detached), Patshull, Pattingham, Lower Penn, Wombourne, Trysull, Seisdon, Himley and Swindon.
- (b) South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, which supplies Kinver, Enville and Bobbington.
- (c) City of Birmingham Water Department, which supplies the Iverley portion of Kinver, and part of Bobbington and Enville.
- (d) East Shropshire Water Board, which supplies parts of Enville and Bobbington.

I am very much indebted to the respective Water Engineers of the above mentioned Water Authorities for the following reports :—

(a) **Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking.**

- (1) The water supplied to the Parishes concerned in your Rural District has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.
- (2) The following is a summary of the results of bacteriological examinations of water going into distribution :

	Number of Samples	Presumptive Coli-Aerogenes per 100 ml.			
		0	1—2	3—10	Over 10
Total number of Bacteriological examinations taken	872	854	15	2	1

A total of 502 samples were also taken from the distribution system for bacteriological examination and 975 samples were taken of water before and during treatment.

The only new supply received during 1966 was that from the River Severn. This is treated by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company at Hampton Loade Treatment Works, one-third of the total output being received by the Undertaking at reservoirs at Goldthorn Hill. Pumping to supply commenced in April, 1966, and about two million gallons per day have since been mixed with Tettenhall and Hilton supplies before distribution.

- (3) The water supplied is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action. The fluoride content of the water in supply falls within the range of 0.04 to 0.18 p.p.m.
- (4) In addition to bacteriological examinations, microbiological, biological, chemical and radiological tests were carried out.
- (5) The estimated total population supplied by W.C.W.U. by the end of the year was 372,900.
- (6) The following table indicates the hardness of water being distributed by the W.C.W.U.

District	Hardness	
	mgms. per litre	(Clark) Degrees
Seisdon, Trysull	235—290	16—20
Blakeley, Himley, Swindon and Wombourne	100—280	7—20
Orton, Lower Penn, Nurton, Perton	265—280	18—20
Pattingham	235—290	16—20
Bilbrook, Codsall, Codsall Wood, Oaken and Wrottesley	235—315	16—22

(b) **South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.**

- (1) The supply to those parts of the Rural District which were served by the South Staffs. Waterworks Co. has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. It comes from Ashwood and Kinver Pumping Stations.

(2)

	Number samples taken.	Number entirely free from any form of coliform bacteria.
Ashwood raw water	101	99
Ashwood Chlorinated water	89	89
Kinver Chlorinated water	52	52
Kinver Reservoir	52	48
		were "highly satisfactory"

Chlorination is practised as a precautionary measure at both of the supplying stations.

Chemical examinations were done on 81 samples from Ashwood Pumping Station, and on 48 samples from Kinver Pumping Station. All were found to be satisfactory.

- (3) Water from the supplying Stations does not have a plumbo-solvent action.
- (4) In the case of possible contamination in the event of burst mains, cleaning out reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination is performed. New mains are not brought into use until a sample of water from them is found to be satisfactory on testing.
- (5) Ashwood P.S. fluoride content Nil—1966.
Kinver P.S. fluoride content Nil—1966.
- (6) The Rural District Council took samples in 1966 :—

Total samples	..	..	113
Highly satisfactory	..	..	109
Suspicious	..	..	3
Unsatisfactory	..	..	1

- (c) **City of Birmingham Water Department** (see also paragraph (e)).

This water supplies about 50 houses in Iwerley.

- (1) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.
- (2) Bacteriological examinations have been made of the water at Elan Aqueduct at Ludlow by the Birmingham Water Department. Twenty-four out of twenty-four samples were "highly satisfactory" at Ludlow. The Public Health Department of Seisdon Rural District have taken samples of this water periodically

at Iverley. Seisdon Rural District Council operate continuously a small chlorination plant just inside their boundary, for the water supplied to these fifty houses at Iverley. At the time of writing, the addition by the Rural District Council of chlorine to the strength of between 0.25 and 0.5 parts per million is producing a water which is "highly satisfactory" as shown by eight tests out of eight (taken at Iverley).

(3) The raw Elan water has a plumbo-solvent action which is neutralised with hydrated lime (8.25 p.p.m.) before entering the Aqueduct.

(4) Fluoride values were :
1 p.p.m.—15th November, 1966.

(d) **Burnhill Green and Patshull Hall.**

At Patshull Hall there is a Hospital Orthopaedic Unit. Twelve samples taken in 1966 were all "highly satisfactory."

Three samples taken in Burnhill Green in 1966, were "highly satisfactory."

Burnhill Green.

Borehole supply from Stanlow Farm (sited in Salop) :—

- (i) Jubilee Cottage (Crown property).
- (ii) Ley Lodge (Crown property).
- (iii) Pillar Box Cottage (Privately owned).

Number of samples taken	16
Class 1 	14
Class 2 	Nil
Class 3 	1
Class 4 	1

Efforts are being made to get the Crown Agents to supply a safe mains supply from the W.C.W.U.

(e) **Enville and Bobbington—East Shropshire Water Board.**

This Board supplies water to western parts of Enville and Bobbington. The water is derived from the Birmingham Elan Aqueduct.

- (i) It has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
- (ii) Supplies were intermittent between 19th and 22nd December because of the Elan Aqueduct shut down.

- (iii) Of water going into supply from the Aqueduct :
18 samples were taken and 2 were unsatisfactory.
- (iv) Water is treated by chlorination at Trimpley and held in reservoir at Quatt before passing to Seisdon Rural District.
- (v) The water is not known to have any plumbo-solvent action.
- (vi) Of ten samples taken by E.S.W.B. for bacteriological tests on 15th December, 1966, ten were highly satisfactory.
- (vii) Of the results of samples taken by the R.D.C. in 1966.
5 were highly satisfactory and 1 was suspicious.

(f) **Swimming Pools.**

A large swimming pool at a hotel in Kinver Parish is tested chemically and bacteriologically through the season by our department. It gives excellent results and conforms to the Ministry of Health Standards. It is tested for P.H. value, residual chlorine content, and bacteriological test each week. Of 15 bacteriological tests in 1966, 14 were "highly satisfactory." The source of the water is the South Staffs. Water Company's main supply originating from its pumping station at Kinver. The Method of treatment is continuous 8—12 hour chlorination, filtration, alum and soda treatment each day. Water at the surface overflow points goes to waste and is not returned to the swimming bath. Water is replaced daily from the mains supply.

The whole of the water is changed each April. The bacteriological results are excellent. The water circulates through the plant every four hours by reason of new engineering apparatus, installed in April, 1961.

A swimming pool has been built as part of the premises of the Wombourne Comprehensive School (Staffs. C.C.). Chlorination is here carried out by adding a chlorine compound and solution each day. The pool is tested by the Staffordshire County Council.

(g) **Enville Estates Supply (Cox Green).**

During 1966, 43 samples were taken. Of these :
39 were highly satisfactory ;
3 were satisfactory ;
1 was suspicious.

An efficient chlorination plant was fitted to the supply on 13/12/63. It had formerly been in use at Burnhill Green and by co-operation between the Rural District Council and the Knville Estates, the apparatus was re-sited at Cox Green. The results have been much improved since it came into operation.

(h) Chemical Analysis of Drinking Water.

Recent results from our sampling are as follows:—

	Lead p.p.m.	Date	Fluorine	Date
Codrall ..	—	—	0.090 p.p.m.	15/12/65
Wombourne ..	—	—	0.093 p.p.m.	8/12/65
Kinver ..	0.03	9/1/67	0.042 p.p.m.	4/1/66

**(i) Kinver, Stourton and New Wood Water Supply
(South Staffordshire Waterworks Company Supply)**

The number of samples taken by the Rural District Council in 1966 were 83. Of these 82 were "highly satisfactory"; one was suspicious.

Included within the 83 were 6 "highly satisfactory" from New Wood. (See also paragraph (b)).

(j) Wrottesley Hall Country Club and Swimming Pool.

The Wolverhampton Corporation Water Supply was connected to the Hall by a newly constructed mains pipeline early in 1964.

At the Open Air Swimming Pool the water is heated, clarified, and chlorinated. Three samples taken between June and November, 1966, were all "highly satisfactory."

(k) Tettenhall.

Four houses taken over from Tettenhall Urban District Council in April, 1966, were without a Mains Water Supply. All relied upon unsatisfactory shallow wells for their drinking water. Two of these houses were connected to the main Wolverhampton Corporation Water Supply before the end of the year. Efforts are continuing to get the other two houses connected to the Mains Supply as soon as possible.

Number of samples taken—30.

Class 1	..	..	15
Class 2	..	..	Nil
Class 3	..	..	6
Class 4	..	..	9

SECTION D

HOUSING

Local Authority Houses—Waiting List.

As at December, 1966, the statistics are :—

65 families living in condemned properties.
207 families living in lodgings.
65 families living in caravans, etc.

337 families in a priority group.

plus

285 families occupying houses
90 families living as service tenants.

375

Total—712

The Housing Officer kindly supplied the following details :

*As at
Dec., 1966*

Total number of Council Houses in Seisdon
R.D.C. at 31st December, 1966 3,281

Number of families on the waiting list for
Local Authority Houses at 31st December,
1966 712

Number of families housed in traditional dwellings during 1966:

Re-lets 47 (Overspill)
Re-lets 79 (Seisdon)
New Dwellings 8 (Seisdon)

Total 134

Improvement Grants—Housing

(a)	Amounts paid in the year up to 31/3/63	..	£11,507
(b)	Amounts paid in the year up to 31/3/64	..	£13,905
(c)	Amounts paid in the year up to 31/3/65	..	£12,120
(d)	Amounts paid in the year up to 31/3/66	..	£6,537
(e)	The number of houses recommended for Improvement Grants in 1966	.. .. .	21

SECTION E

See Report of Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION F

PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

February, 1966. Bacillary Dysentery. An outbreak of Bacillary Dysentery of Sonnei type occurred in Codsall Infants School during the third week of December, 1965, and continued into January, 1966. It was proved by Bacteriological Tests. The outbreak emphasised the difficulties under which the Infants Department of the School was working and led to representations to the County Council.

February, 1966. Influenza. A large outbreak of virus influenza affected the Wombourne Comprehensive School during the second half of January, 1966. Influenza virus type (A) was isolated by the Public Health Laboratory at Stafford in the later days of the month. At the height of the outbreak there were 400 children away from the School on one particular day—out of a total of 1,150.

March, 1966. Health Education. During the year frequent use was made of posters and leaflets on the subject of Health Education as obtained from the Central Council for Health Education. For instance, they were of special use for distribution to parents and teachers in connection with cases of Dysentery.

May, 1966. Smallpox Minor. An outbreak of Smallpox Minor occurred in the West Midlands. Three contacts of cases of Smallpox Minor lived within the Rural District and were kept under surveillance. During July two severe cases of Chicken Pox occurred within the Rural District. They were (a) in Wombourne—a boy aged 14 years, and (b) in Kinver—a boy aged 6 years. They were so severe as to simulate Smallpox Minor and the Consultant in Smallpox on the staff of the Regional Hospital Board came to advise on them in their homes. Virus investigations in each case confirmed the diagnosis of Chicken Pox.

November, 1966. Typhoid Fever. A resident of the Rural District returning from a holiday in south-western Europe, was a contact of a case of proved Typhoid Fever which had developed in a member of the same holiday party. The resident of the Rural District was investigated and was found to be carrying a Salmonella Bredeney infection.

Scarlet Fever								<i>Cases Notified</i>
1964	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
1965	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
1966	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17

Whooping Cough

1964	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
1965	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
1966	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

Immunisation against Whooping Cough is available at Infant Welfare Clinics throughout the Rural District, and at the General Practitioners' Surgeries.

Measles								<i>Cases Notified</i>
1963	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,083
1964	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	206
1965	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	499
1966	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	376

Diphtheria

No case of Diphtheria occurred in the year. The last case of Diphtheria in the Rural District occurred in 1950, in which year there were two cases. Immunisation against Diphtheria is available at Clinics throughout the Rural District, and also at the General Practitioners' Surgeries.

Number of children immunised against Diphtheria have been as follows :—

		1965	1966 April to December
Primary Immunisation	..	596	417
Reinforcement Immunisation	..	1543	318
Total	.. ..	2139	735

Tetanus. Immunisation against Tetanus :—

Primary Tetanus Immunisation	606	..	414
Reinforcement Tetanus Immunisation	.. ..	1521	313
Total	.. ..	2127	717

Infantile Paralysis (Poliomyelitis).

Poliomyelitis vaccine given in 1966 :

Primary Polio vaccine	..	..	..	628
Reinforcement Polio vaccine	..	..	..	336
Total	..	..	..	964

There have been 24 cases of Poliomyelitis in the Rural District in the last 20 years. One of these cases died. The last case of Poliomyelitis occurred in 1960.

Smallpox. Vaccination against Smallpox.

Initial Vaccinations.	1964	1965	1966 April to December
Under one year	36	36	22
Age group 1—4	265	351	356
Age group 5—14	32	23	59
Age group 15 and over	25	—	—
	358	410	437

Re-vaccinations.

Age group 1—4	..	—	1	1
Age group 5—14	..	3	185	2
Age group 15 and over	..	10	—	—
		13	186	3

General Measures.

School notifications of infectious diseases are carefully scrutinised and made prompt use of for the purpose of guidance and location.

SECTION G

TUBERCULOSIS

Appreciation is here recorded of the co-operation and help given by the Housing Committee of Seisdon Rural District Council in giving priority to the housing recommendations of the M.O.H. in cases of Tuberculosis. This priority consists in awarding a variable number of housing points according to whether the case is an open sputum positive case or not, and takes account also of the number and condition of the children.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
On Register 31/12/65 ..	65	69	5	4
Cases entered on Register 1966	4	5	0	1
Cases removed from Register during 1966	14	11	0	0
Remaining on Register 31/12/66	55	63	5	5
Total	118		10	

Total Number of Cases on Register

	At 31/12/64	At 31/12/65	At 31/12/66
Pulmonary—Male	74	65	55
Pulmonary—Female	90	69	63
Non-Pulmonary—Male	5	5	5
Non-Pulmonary—Female	6	4	5
TOTAL	175	143	128
Number per 1,000 population (Seisdon)	4.3	3.5	3.4
Average for Staffs. C.C. per 1,000 population	7.7	6.3	—
Number of Deaths of Seisdon Residents (Tuberculosis) ..	Nil	1	Nil

Seisdon Rural District—1966.

4 new cases Tuberculosis Lung.

Plus 4 old cases Tuberculosis Lung transferred into Rural District.

Plus 1 old case Tuberculosis transferred into Rural District.

25 cases removed from Register.

i.e. 19 cases transferred out of Rural District.

Plus 6 cases recovered.

TUBERCULOSIS OF THE LUNG

Compare Notification Rate of new cases per 100,00 Population.

	Average 1959-63	Average 1960-64	1964	1965
England and Wales ..	43	38	32	28
Staffordshire	34	31	25	21
Wolverhampton	60	60	57	41
Birmingham	63	62	58	52
Smethwick	104	86	58	97

Seisdon Rural District—

1963 ..	18	Notifications per 100,000 population.
1964 ..	27	.. .. .
1965 ..	31	.. .. .
1966 ..	13	.. .. .

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the Year 1966

To the Chairman and Members of the
London Rural District Council.

My Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my tenth Annual Report upon the work of your Public Health Inspectors.

The boundary changes which took effect in April under the West Midlands Order 1965 though not involving large areas created a lot of administrative re-organisation particularly in the public cleansing services. The grouping of estates of council housing development, east of town, in exchange for isolated properties with remote access, and the legacy of troublesome aspects taken over in the Gospel End area adversely affected the costs of the cleansing services. In the public health aspects of the boundary changes we might have been forgiven for taking some delight in handing over the problem factory estate upon the Peabody's Aerodrome to its landlords. But we were not so pleased at the transfer into the district of networks situated at Gospel End.

An unusually small amount of new legislation affecting environmental health came into operation during 1966 and this gave welcome respite to your Inspectors who have had to digest and put into effect a significant number of new Acts and Regulations over the last few years. Progress demands that our standards are continually being raised and new and amending legislation must continue to be expected but I do feel that our legislation should be able to produce clauses that are more easily understandable than many of those which we are being expected to enforce today. Although they did not come into operation until 1967, the Food Hygiene (Markets Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966 call for comment as they will to some extent demand the higher standards in food hygiene in vehicles as are already required in buildings. Once again we had an example of Regulations being amended before ever they came into force, and regrettably watered down, and if the original Regulations seemed complex and in some respects difficult to create it was nothing to the problems of interpretation which the Amendment Regulations presented for your Inspectors in 1967.

Although the friendly regard of Dr. A. E. Kennedy did not
diminish with years, and 1917, I feel compelled to make expression
in this respect. Dr. Kennedy and I were close friends for nearly
ten years and during that time we built up a happy relationship and
a mutual understanding of each other's work. I am most grateful
for the support he always gave me.

Finally, I would express my thanks to the Chairman and
Members of the Public Health and Charities Commission for their
consideration and support, and I am most appreciative of the ready
cooperation I have received from my fellow officials. To the
staff of the Health Department, both professional and clerical, and
to the workers of the Community Department, I express my appre-
ciation and thank for their work throughout the year.

I am,

Very respectfully,
Yours,

H. H. WOODRUFF.

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Charities Supervisor.

July, 1917.

ACTION UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

The following summary indicates the numbers of inspections and other visits paid by the public health inspectors in respect of the subjects listed :—

Public Health Nuisances	..	..	..	..	302
Drainage	..	..	..	..	425
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	179
Dirty/Verminous Premises	..	..	..	..	63
Piggeries/Other animals kept	..	..	..	..	20
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	64
Swimming Pools	..	..	..	..	12
Rodent and Insect Pest Control	..	..	..	..	29

Action in respect of nuisances includes repairs to houses where the defects can be regarded as “ prejudicial to health or a nuisance.”

Other activities under these Acts included the provision and maintenance of satisfactory drainage, the conversion of pan closets to water closets, the investigation of infectious diseases, and the sampling of water supplies and swimming pools.

Samples taken

Water samples for bacteriological examination	..	306
Water samples for chemical examination	..	18
Swimming bath samples for bacteriological and chemical examination	..	15

Complaints

Some 1,501 complaints were received during the year and these were all investigated and the appropriate action taken where necessary. 564 related to the presence of rats, mice and other pests ; 448 concerned obstructed drains ; all these were dealt with expeditiously by your rodent operative. 315 complaints on refuse collection were dealt with, and these ranged from genuine complaints of dustbins not emptied to trivial complaints regarding the position of the bin. The other 174 concerned offensive smells, noise, atmospheric pollution, unsound food, water supply, housing defects, etc.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Eleven complaints received during the year included the night working of factory machinery, dog barking and a clay pigeon shoot. Where necessary they were resolved by informal action and in no case was there any lack of co-operation. 50 visits were made by your inspectors.

Hairdressers and Barbers

Byelaws were made in 1963 for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises at which a hairdressers or barbers business is carried on and of the instruments, towels, materials and equipment used therein, and the cleanliness of hairdressers or barbers working in such premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

36 inspections were carried out upon the 21 premises concerned and the following improvements effected.

Sterilisation Equipment provided	1
Receptacles for Hair Clippings provided	1
Premises Redecorated	3
Improved Ventilation provided	2

ACTION UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS

Preliminary surveys of houses	69
Primary inspections	118
Re-inspections	352
Inspections re Improvement	90
Investigation of Overcrowding	3

Unfit Housing Programme

The third Five Year programme for the clearance of unfit houses was commenced in 1966 when 37 unfit dwellings were represented. A further 186 unfit houses are programmed for action within the next four years.

A total of 509 unfit dwellings were dealt with in the previous ten years.

Individual Unfit Houses

During 1966 a total of 37 unfit houses not capable of repair at reasonable expense were represented and action taken as follows :—

Number of Demolition Orders made	27
Number of Closing Orders made	1
Number of Undertakings not to Relet accepted ..	9

Clearance Areas

No clearance areas were declared during 1966.

Housing Defects

45 Informal Notices were served during the year. These required the execution of essential repairs, improvements to water supplies and drainage, and conversion of pail closets to the water carriage system.

During the year repairs and improvements were effected in 67 houses within the district, and the following table indicates the nature of the works carried out.

Summary of Repairs and Improvements effected

Repairs to roof, walls and external structures ..	37
Internal repairs to walls, ceilings and floors ..	41
Repairs to doors, windows, and other internal fittings	47
Dampness remedied	43
Repairs and improvement to water supplies ..	14
Repair and improvement to drainage system ..	39
Pail closets abolished	49
Water closets provided	49

Housing Improvements

Our efforts continued as in previous years to encourage the owners of suitable older houses to do improvement schemes to bring their houses up to modern standard. This has resulted in many owner occupied houses being improved but only a few tenanted houses.

Full consideration was given to the powers contained in the Housing Act, 1964, for the compulsory improvement of tenanted houses, and at the end of the year the Improvement Area No. 1 (Codsall) was declared. This contained a total of 16 dwellings, out of which 9 were capable of compulsory improvement. The remaining seven were either already improved, owner occupied, or unfit and not capable of improvement at reasonable expense. Although the area contained but a small number of houses, the problems involved by the set procedures of the Act soon became apparent. Four houses though structurally sound had outside wash-houses in defective condition ; their tenants requested improvement, but the owner was un-co-operative. The Ministerial procedure demands that the houses are made fit before the improvements can be required ; only by informal action can the repairs and improvements be done as one operation. This means that defects would have to be remedied in parts of the houses, and most likely by the Council in default ; and then, those same parts of the houses reconstructed to provide the improvements. A more practicable and economical method must surely be for the execution of the repairs required under the 1957 Housing Act to be carried out at the same time as the works of improvement required under the 1964 Housing Act.

Fortunately, opportunity has arisen for the Council to try and acquire the houses in question, and if successful this will enable the proper co-ordination of works of improvement with works of repair which the Housing Act, 1964 at present prevents.

Only one application was received from a tenant not in an improvement area requesting the Council to use their powers of compulsory improvement. In this case the house was unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable expense ; and therefore formally dealt with as an individual unfit house.

Houses in Multi-occupation

The boundary revision in April brought one house in multi-occupation within the district but agreement was reached with the owner for the execution of all works necessary to make the premises satisfactory.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses in this district.

Rent Act, 1957

For the fourth successive year no applications were received for certificates of disrepair.

ACTION UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT

Smoke Control Areas

The decision taken by the Council in 1966 that they would prepare and put into operation a Programme of Domestic Smoke Control for the built up areas of the district resulted in the submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of a fifteen year Programme intended to include nearly 75% of the houses in the district. The Programme was two-fold in that it would include those parts of the district which, due to their situation, were areas of heavy atmospheric pollution and it would also co-ordinate on the eastern boundaries with the Smoke Control Programmes of neighbouring Authorities of the West Midlands Conurbation.

In conjunction with this Programme a standard daily volumetric instrument for the measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the air was installed at the Council Offices in Wombourne in May. The site for this was chosen in collaboration with the Warren Springs Laboratory of the Ministry of Technology to whom records of each daily measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide are given for inclusion in their National Survey of Air Pollution.

In return we are provided with their monthly Atmospheric Pollution Bulletin which enables us to compare our smoke and sulphur dioxide pollution with the levels obtaining in other parts of the country.

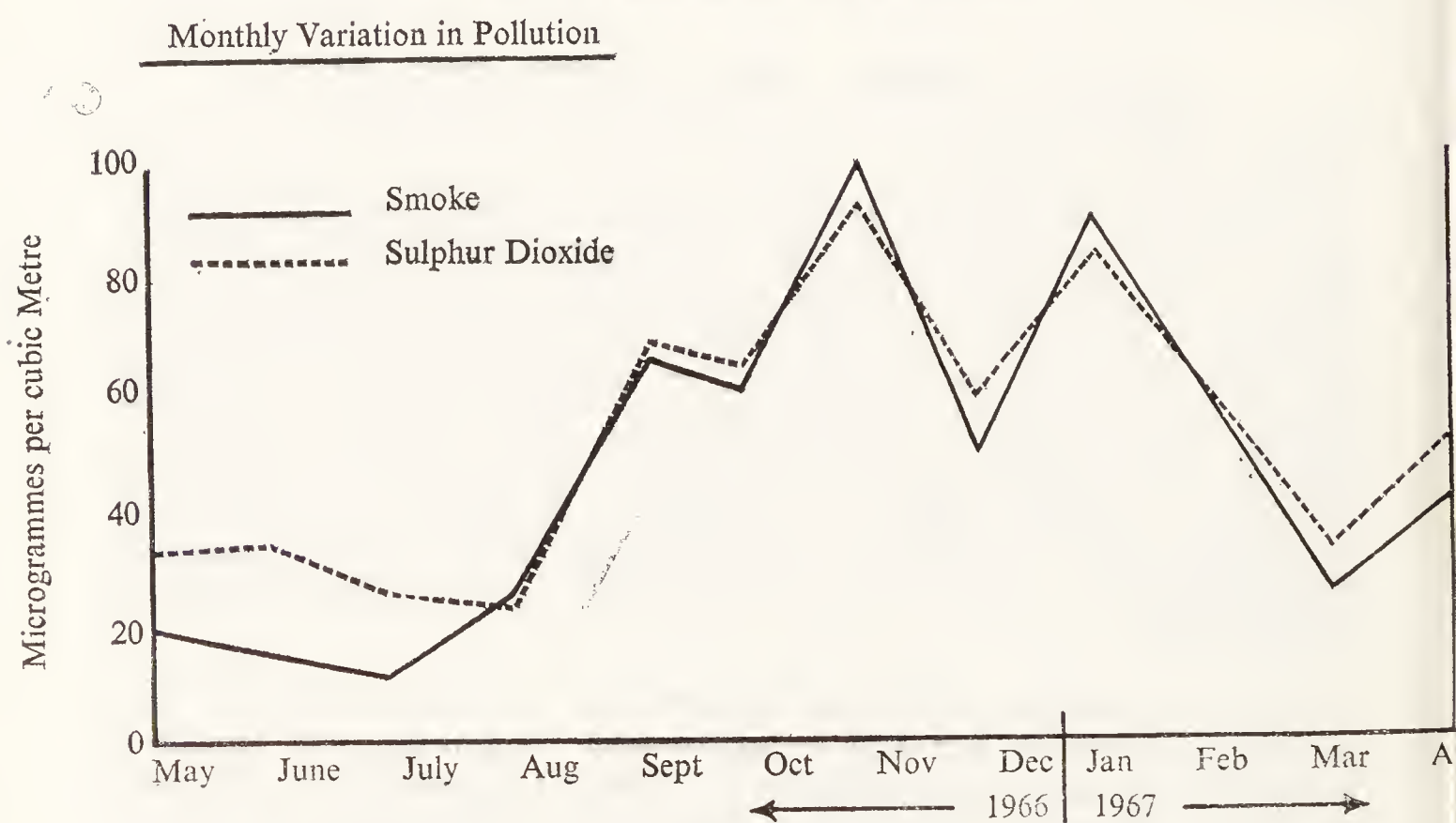
The only Smoke Control Area in operation in the district prior to boundary changes was Himly No. 1 which covered 36 houses to an extent of 57 acres on the Sedgley Urban District Council Boundary. On the 1st April parts of the Sedgley No. 2, No. 7 and No. 8 operative Smoke Control Areas were taken into the district and these covered 58 dwellings in an area of 710 acres. At the end of the year Smoke Control Orders affected 94 dwellings in 767 acres.

The part of the Sedgley No. 9 Smoke Control Order transferable to this district by the West Midlands Order, 1965, covered 51 dwellings in 282 acres but this was still awaiting confirmation at the end of the year. It was subject to a Public Enquiry following two objections to the Order which was held on 8th November, 1966. For the purpose of inspecting heating arrangements, 52 visits were made by Public Health Inspectors.

Measurement of Pollution

The graphs below indicate the extent of pollution for the first year of operation.

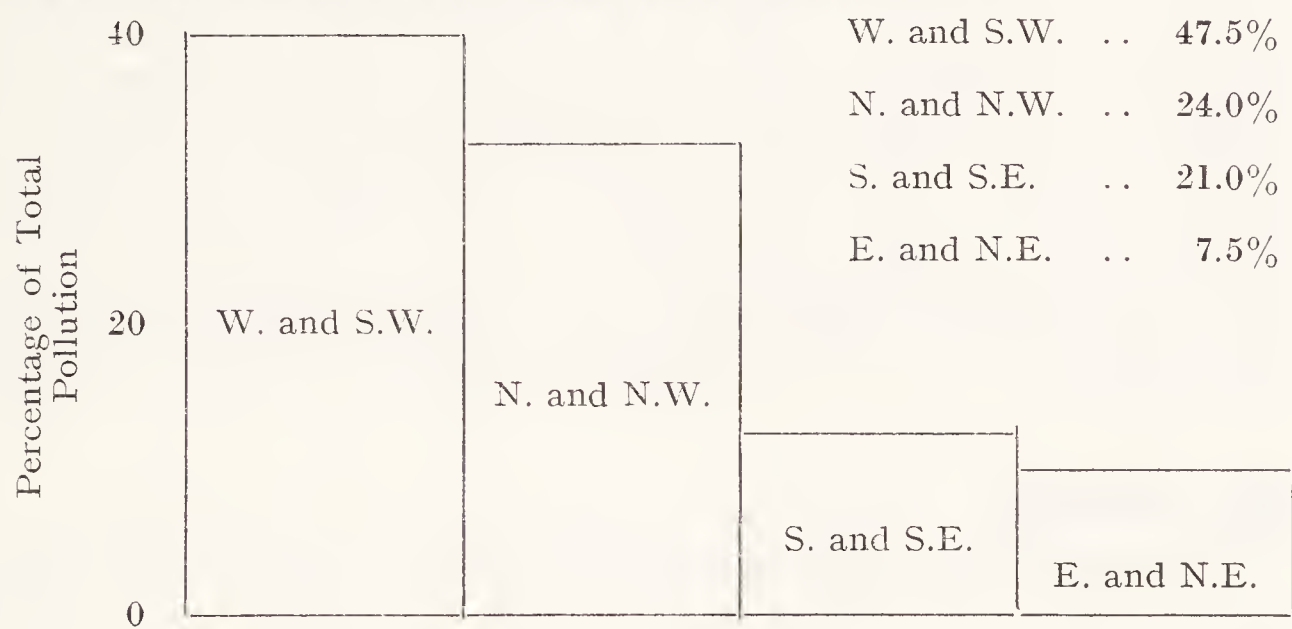
Monthly Variation in Pollution



Bearing in mind this was a particularly mild winter, especially in December, the graph shows the large amount of pollution which has to be breathed in during winter months. There is obviously

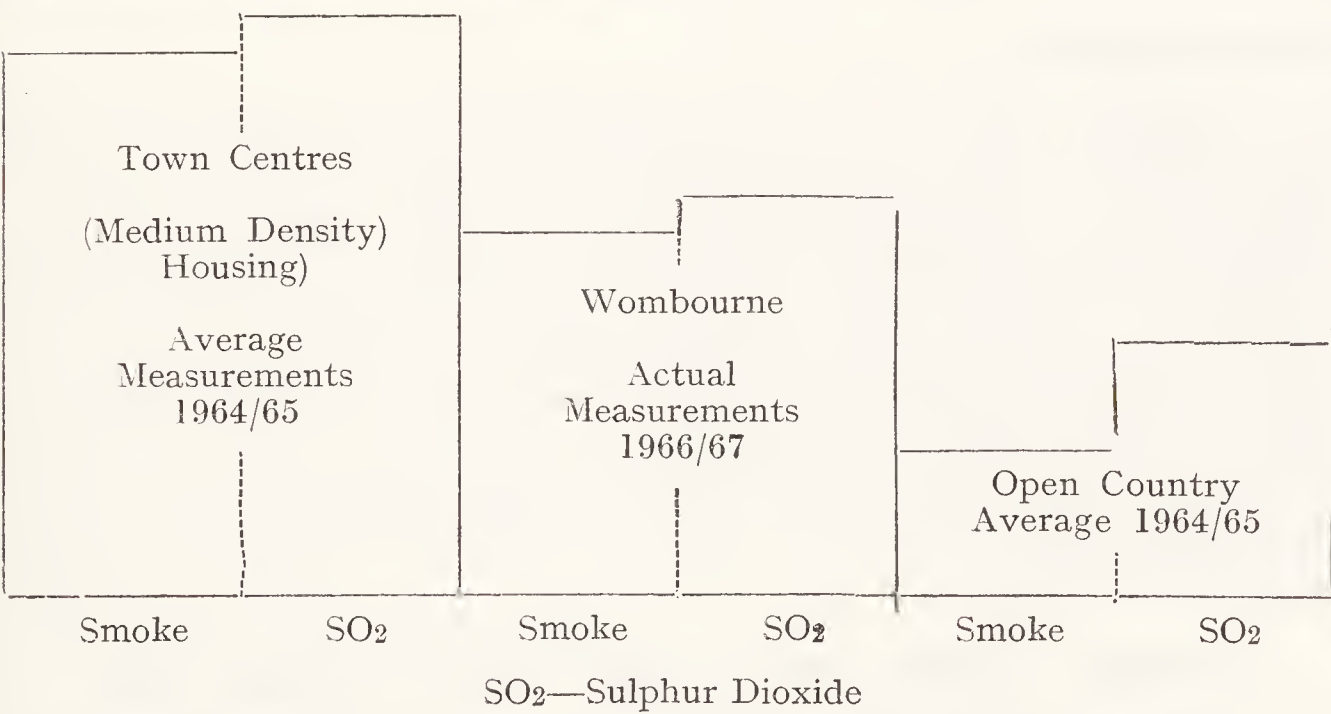
scope for considerable reduction of smoke by the introduction of smoke control areas and it will be interesting to see the effect of these areas on the sulphur dioxide pollution.

Total Smoke Pollution according to Wind Direction



As regards the central area of Wombourne, smoke pollution is at its greatest with the prevailing West and South-west winds.

Comparisons with other Areas



In observing this graph, it must be borne in mind that the Wombourne measurements were taken during a much milder winter than the others. From current figures, however, Wombourne shows similar pollution to many areas of medium density housing ; smoke pollution is found to be equivalent to that in many London suburbs though sulphur dioxide is much less.

INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION

Smoke from existing Industrial Plant

In 1966, the Public Health Inspectors made nine chimney observations and five contraventions were recorded. These were followed by proper investigation and for this purpose 23 visits were made to furnace plant. Prior to re-organisation, no serious industrial smoke problem existed in the rural district as most of the factories have modern boiler and furnace equipment, but a large brickworks came within the boundaries following the West Midlands Order. This is the responsibility of the Government's Alkali Inspectorate. It can be seen from far away as an almost continuous dark smoke emitter on a large scale. Unfortunately it lies within the Sedgley No. 7 Smoke Control Area, transferred to this Council's jurisdiction.

New Furnaces

During the year, four notifications were received of the installation of new furnaces and at three premises, the height of new boiler house chimneys was determined using the standard formulae. No applications were made for prior approval.

It was apparent that many firms, including some heating engineers, are unaware of their legal obligations under Sections 3, 5 and 10 of the Clean Air Act, 1956.

Other Pollutants

A sample of flue dust was analysed from one factory for the determination of proportions of lead, arsenic and fluorine. Another factory was kept under observation for signs of any heavy discharges of nitrous oxide from the flue gas washer. The Regulations to come into force in 1968 which will require plating of commercial vehicles are welcome from an air pollution point of view as it is considered these should cause a good reduction in vehicle exhaust smoke which can be a problem in this area where many heavily laden sand-carrying lorries have to negotiate steep hills. No nuisance arose in the year from the two large colliery spoil banks at Baggeridge Wood.

ACTION UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

It is under this Act and the many Regulations made under it that the inspection of all types of food are carried out ; and that the various premises for the manufacture, storage and distribution of food, and the handling of food in such premises, are controlled.

There are a total of 221 food premises within the district, and 502 inspections of these were carried out ; the following summary indicates the number of each type of premises :—

Type of Food Premises.

*No. of
Premises.*

Bakehouses	2
Butchers' Shops	22
Cafes, Snack Bars and Works Canteens	18
Fried Fish Shops	9
Grocers Shops	75
Hotels and Restaurants	11
Public Houses.. .. .	47
Other Food Premises.. .. .	37

All these 221 premises are fitted with adequate personal washing facilities to comply with Regulation 16 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Regulation 19, which requires the provision of facilities for the washing of food and equipment, applies to 209 of these premises and all these 209 premises are fitted to comply with the Regulation 19.

As a result of these routine inspections and the service of some 37 informal notices the following improvements were effected during the year to the various food premises as shown.

	Structurally Improved	Premises Redecorated	Improved Equipment Provided	Improved Personal Hygiene and Handling	Improved Sanitary Accommodation
Bakehouses	—	1	—	2	—
Butchers Shops	—	2	2	—	—
Cafes, Snack Bars and Works Canteens	1	3	3	1	—
Fried Fish Shops	—	1	—	—	—
Grocers Shops	3	16	13	12	2
Hotels and Restaurants	1	2	—	1	1
Public Houses	3	5	—	—	—
Other Food Premises	1	—	—	1	—
Total	9	30	18	17	3

Food Vehicles

Although they did not come into operation until 1967 it was encouraging to have the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations made in 1966. However, it was regrettable that they had to be amended before they have ever operated; and more so that they had to be weakened in some directions. I would have liked to have seen them strengthened by some powers of registration and compulsory inspection of mobile food shops before they could operate.

During the year 17 inspections were carried out on mobile food shops operating in the area.

Licensed Clubs.

The opportunity given in the Licensing Act, 1964, to make reports to the Licensing Justices upon the suitability of club premises, has been a valuable adjunct to the existing powers of the Food and Drugs Act.

During the year special reports were made upon four club premises, and a total of 32 inspections of club premises were carried out.

Slaughterhouses.

Although three private slaughterhouses were in operation at the beginning of the year, the small private butchers slaughterhouse in Wrottesley was transferred to Wolverhampton County Borough by the boundary changes in April. Of the remaining two slaughterhouses, the largest is in Pattingham operated by a Wholesale Meat Company, the other being a private butchers slaughterhouse at Codsall. The Construction Regulations have been operative since the 1st April, 1961, and compliance with these Regulations has been maintained; for this purpose 13 inspections were made.

Meat Inspection

During the year your inspectors paid a total of 610 visits to the slaughterhouses for the inspection of meat to ensure its fitness for human consumption and this involved the physical examination of 5,580 carcasses and their respective organs.

The inspection table which follows shows the complete absence once again of bovine tuberculosis, and the presence of tuberculosis in the organs of pigs was the lowest on record. No *Cysticercus Bovis* was found during the year but other parasitic infestations again accounted for most of the other organs condemned. A total of 11 whole carcasses were condemned for the following reasons:—

1 Cow	..	Fever.
2 Sheep	..	Generalised Oedema.
1 Sheep	..	Fever.
1 Sheep	..	Septicaemia.
1 Pig	..	Acute Septic Pleurisy.
1 Pig	..	Fever.
2 Pigs	..	Pyæmia.
2 Pigs	..	Septic Pericarditis.

It is estimated that the total weight of meat and offal condemned was two tons.

Towards the end of the year the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1966, came into force and these contained powers for the control of times of slaughtering and the total prohibition of the removal of meat from a slaughterhouse before it has been inspected. It is pleasing to record that we have always received co-operation from the operators of our slaughterhouses and no action in respect of these matters was called for.

Poultry

Number of poultry processing premises	..	..	3
Number of visits to these premises	..	..	7
Estimated number and types of birds processed during the year :			
Turkeys	..	..	500
Hens	..	..	3,150
Capon	..	..	300
			<hr/>
Total	..	..	3,950
Estimated percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	..	..	4%
Estimated weight of poultry rejected as unfit for human consumption	..	..	660 lbs.

Visits are now being made to these premises to ensure that poultry is processed under hygienic conditions and that unfit poultry is not being sold for human consumption. No complaints regarding the condition of any poultry were made during the year.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	516	2	16	3266	1780	—
Number inspected ..	516	2	16	3266	1780	—
All diseases except Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci— Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	4	6	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	85	—	—	102	530	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ..	16.5	50.0	—	3.2	30.1	—
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	8	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.4	—
Cysticercosis : Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Other Foods Inspected

The following table shows the quantities of other foods inspected, found unfit for human consumption and satisfactorily disposed of ; 53 visits were involved.

						<i>cwt.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Canned Meats	..	..	..	..	..	2	66
Canned Fish	..	..	..	..	..		36
Fruit and Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..		46
Other Foods	..	..	..	..	..		70
Total						3	106

A consignment of 15 lbs. of shoulders of lamb delivered to one of the schools in this district was found upon examination to be decomposing. Legal proceedings were taken in respect of this sale of unsound food and a fine of £20 0s. 0d. was imposed.

Foreign Bodies in Food

10 incidents involving the presence of foreign bodies in food were investigated, and in one case proceedings were taken by the Staffordshire County Council, who are the Food and Drugs Authority for this district. A fine of £20 with 6 guineas costs was imposed.

Food Sampling

The Staffordshire County Council have provided the following information of foods sampled in this district.

Milk Samples— Untreated	..	..	..	..	19
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	9
Pasteurised (Channel Island)	..				7
Sterilised	..	..	..	..	7
Total					42

All genuine except one sample of Untreated Milk.

General Foods—

No. of samples taken	..	..	..	..	75
No. of samples genuine	..	..	..	..	74
No. of samples adulterated	..	..	..	..	1

Particulars of Adulterated Sample and action taken.

Orange Juice should be labelled Retailers no longer in
“Orange Juice with Sugar existence.
added.”

The following range of food commodities were covered by these samples :—

Bread.
Butter, Margarine, Fat.
Milk.
Milk products.
Ice Cream.
Fruit.
Vegetables.
Jams, Marmalades.
Pickled products.
Meat products.
Wines, Cordials.
Beverages.

Ice Cream

108 premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of ice cream, and a number of mobile vehicles based in adjacent districts also operate in this area. 74 visits were made for the purpose of sampling and a total of 71 samples were taken for bacteriological examination. The following table indicates the results of these samples.

GRADES				Total
1	2	3	4	
61	2	2	6	71

The eight samples graded 3 and 4 were all taken from mobile traders' vehicles, and the pattern of unsatisfactory bacteriological samples taken over a number of years clearly indicates that the sale of ice-cream now only presents problems in respect of mobile traders. Yet we still continue to register static premises for the sale of ice-cream under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and have no powers of registration in respect of the mobile ice-cream salesmen. I have said this before but must repeat it

What a ludicrous system now exists with regard to ice-cream, and particularly with regard to the production of soft ice-cream which can be made in a vehicle and sold from it without the control of registration! An inspector has first to find the vehicle, then sample the ice-cream, and if the result of grading is unsatisfactory he then has to find the vehicle again—not an easy task in any area.

The following table summarises the samples in relation to the various manufacturers, and in interpreting these results the recommendations of the Public Health Laboratory should be borne in mind. 50% of the vendor's samples should fall into grade 1, 80% into grades 1 or 2, not more than 20% into grade 3 and none into grade 4.

Manufactur- turer	No. of Retailers selling in this area	Grade				Total
		1	2	3	4	
"A"	39	14	—	—	—	14
"B"	41	15	2	—	—	17
"C"	21	14	—	—	—	14
"D"	5	3	—	—	—	3
"E"	2	2	—	—	—	2
"F"	Mobile Vans	1	—	—	—	1
"G"	" "	3	—	—	—	3
"H"	" "	1	—	—	—	1
"I"	" "	1	—	—	—	1
"J"	" "	1	—	—	—	1
"K"	" "	2	—	1	2	5
"L"	" "	—	—	1	—	1
"M"	" "	1	—	—	1	2
"N"	" "	—	—	—	3	3
"O"	" "	1	—	—	—	1
"P"	" "	1	—	—	—	1
"Q"	" "	1	—	—	—	1
Total ..	108 <i>plus</i> Mobile Vans	61	2	2	6	71

Milk Supply

Milk sampling is carried out by the Staffordshire County Council Health Inspector, who during the year took the following 294 samples from within this district.

Untreated (farm bottled)	..	..	..	..	61
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	184
Sterilised	..	..	..	..	49

Twenty of these 294 samples failed the Methylene Blue Test ; these were 13 samples of untreated milk and 7 samples of pasteurised milk.

Most of the unsatisfactory samples of untreated milk came from one dairy farmer within the district. A difficult situation arose during the year when this dairy farmer ceased to produce his own milk, purchased untreated milk in bulk for packing and retailing in cartons in vending machines, and eventually applied for registration as a distributor and a dairy under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959. With a long history of methylene blue failures, intermittent brucella abortus infections, and an unsatisfactory dairy premises, there was no alternative than to serve notice to show cause why registration as a distributor and as a dairy should not be refused. The problem was finally resolved by the distributor obtaining pasteurised milk already cartoned for his vending machines, and he was duly registered. Subsequent sampling clearly indicated that this was a much more satisfactory arrangement.

ACTION UNDER THE CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

Over the last six years a considerable amount of your officers' time has been spent upon the implementation of the Council's policy of reducing the overall number of caravan sites to a limited number of good sites with high standards of amenity. The reward for this work was well in evidence during the year with the three larger private sites already satisfying the new higher standards required by their licences under the 1960 Act, the completed First Phase of the Council's site at Hinksford with its even higher standards, and the commencement of the Second Phase at Hinksford which was well advanced by the end of the year.

The management of your Council's site at Hinksford has proved an interesting and rewarding task although inevitably a time consuming one. Your resident warden, Mr. J. D. Westwood, has worked unstintingly in the building up of this site and has succeeded in harmonising the routine administration with the overall welfare of the residents. A word of praise is also due to Mrs. Westwood for the considerable amount of voluntary aid that she has given upon the site.

Authorised sites in use at the end of the year and the number of caravans upon them were as follows:—

Sites licensed for more than one caravan—

Silver Poplars, Kingswood	..	..	21	caravans
White Harte, Kinver	..	..	28	„
Pendeford Hall, Wrottesley	..	..	66	„

Single caravan sites licensed for special purposes—

12 sites	12	„
----------	----	----	----	----	----	----	---

Council operated sites—

Hinksford (not completed)	82	„
---------------------------	----	----	----	---

61 visits were made to caravan sites during the year and 203 visits to individual caravans. The illegal siting of itinerant caravans entailed a further 115 inspections of land and a total of 277 caravans were involved. Considerable nuisance was caused by the excessive amounts of rubbish left behind when these caravans were moved on. To overcome the problem of getting these flagrant offenders of the Litter Act into Court arrangements were made towards the end of the year for the setting up of a Special Court at short notice. With the active co-operation of the Staffordshire County Police this action was taken in December and six men were proceeded against under the Litter Act and each fined £5 for offences committed but 48 hours previously.

During the year proceedings were taken in two instances under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, in respect of the use of land as a caravan site without licence. Fines of £20 and £10 with Costs were imposed.

ACTION UNDER OTHER ACTS

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

The Act is designed to make provision for securing the health, safety, and welfare of persons employed to work in offices, shops and railway premises ; but the Council's responsibilities are mainly for offices and shops not contained in factories.

Most of the provisions of the Act came into operation during 1964, and every effort was made during that year to see that all affected premises were registered. Only sixteen general inspections were carried out in 1964.

In 1965 a total of 98 general inspections were carried out ; and in 1966 the remaining 65 registered premises received their general inspection.

The position at the end of 1966 was that all registered premises had received their first general inspection, and premises which had contravened the Act were being re-visited. A new table has been included to show the number of premises and the subject matters which had received attention to comply with the Act as a result of the service of informal notices.

We are finding that shops whose only employees are immediate relatives are still registering their premises and thinking that the Act applies to them. I think that it is a regrettable feature of the Act, that members of the employers family should be deprived of the protection of this Act for their health and safety.

This is the third year of operation of this Act, and I find it surprising that in spite of the publicity the provisions of the Act have received, we have not yet had a complaint from an employee of any registered premises with regard to a contravention thereof.

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of premises.	Number of premises registered during the year.	Total number of premises at end of year.	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	—	26	8
Retail Shops	6	102	34
Wholesale shops, warehouses ..	—	1	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	2	34	22
Fuel storage depots	—	—	—
TOTALS	8	163	65

**Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises :
224**

Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace :

Class of Workplace	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	504
Retail shops	274
Wholesale departments, warehouses	4
Catering establishments open to the public ..	260
Canteens	21
Fuel storage depots	—
Total	1063
Total Males ..	492
Total Females	571

Exemptions—Nil.

Prosecutions—Nil.

Analysis of Contraventions (65 premises inspected).

Section 4—Cleanliness. 26 premises were found to be in need of redecoration in some part of the premises.

Section 6—Temperature. 43 premises were without a suitable thermometer.

Section 7—Ventilation. In 14 premises improved means of ventilation was necessary.

Section 8—Lighting. There were 16 instances where the lighting was either inadequate or unsuitable. Many of these were store rooms at the back of intensively lit shops, some with unshaded bulbs badly sited.

The standards recommended by the Illuminating Engineering Society have been used as a guide to the interpretation of light meter readings, and have been recommended to employers as a desirable optimum.

Section 9—Sanitary Conveniences. 4 premises had insufficient sanitary accommodation, and 5 premises had defective sanitary conveniences.

Section 10—Washing Facilities. 14 premises had defective or deficient washing facilities. The deficiencies were mostly in respect of unsatisfactory hot water supply.

Section 12—Accommodation of Clothing. In 29 premises it was found that accommodation for clothing was inadequate; mainly because there were no satisfactory arrangements for the drying of wet outdoor clothing. In all small establishments the provision of coat-hangers in a situation where wet clothing can dry out was all that was called for.

Section 13—Sitting Facilities. 3 shop premises were found to be without an adequate number of seats for the shop workers.

Section 16—Floors, Passages and Stairs. Defective conditions existed in 29 premises. The main defects were badly worn floor coverings and lack of hand rails to stairs.

Section 17—Fencing of Exposed Parts of Machinery. Two items of dangerous machinery were found to be not securely fenced.

Section 24—First Aid Provisions. The absence of first aid boxes was still the commonest single contravention found and 51 premises were failing in this respect.

Section 48—Notification of Accidents. Only one accident was reported during the year. This involved a female office worker whose finger was crushed by the sliding door of a cupboard being closed by another worker.

Section 50—Information to Employees. Very few employers were aware of their obligations under “The Information for Employees Regulations 1965 ” and 51 premises were found defaulting in this respect. Some complained of difficulties in obtaining booklets. To assist in this matter a bulk supply was obtained and booklets are sold to individual premises requiring them.

Work done during 1966

Section of Act and Subject Matter	Number of Registered premises where Improvements have been carried out to comply with the Act.			
	Offices	Shops	Catering Establish- ments	TOTAL
4 Cleanliness	2	14	8	24
6 Temperature	3	20	10	33
7 Ventilation	1	7	2	10
8 Lighting	—	4	5	9
9 Sanitary Conveniences ..	—	1	—	1
10 Washing Facilities ..	1	5	2	8
12 Accommodation for Cloth- ing	2	20	8	30
13 Sitting Facilities	—	3	—	3
15 Eating Facilities	—	1	—	1
16 Floors, passages, stairs ..	1	4	4	9
24 First Aid Provision ..	7	32	11	50
50 Information to Employees	3	32	13	48
TOTALS	20	143	63	226

Factories Act, 1961

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Register	No. of		
		In - spections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	11	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	78	63	21	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	88	74	21	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. In- spectors	By H.M. In- spectors	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ..	—	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	19	26	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ..	2	2	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	21	29	—	—	—

Part VIII of the Act
Outwork
(Sections 133 and 134)
 No. of Outworkers : Nil.

Shops Act, 1950

There are 225 shop premises within the district. Most visits were made in conjunction with inspections under other Acts and Regulations, but three visits were specifically made for the purpose of the Shops Act Hours of Closing. Although the vexed question of Sunday trading is still with us, no further complaints were received during the year following the proceedings which were taken at the end of 1964.

Petroleum Consolidation Act, 1928

93 premises were licensed under this Act for the storage of petroleum spirit. 21 of these are public filling stations and 72 are private installations.

Conditions of licence are based on the Home Office Model Code, with additional conditions to govern the use of petroliers. These conditions are designed to protect those who come into close contact with highly inflammable substances, and the small number of incidents that occur would seem to fully justify what sometimes may appear to be stringent requirements.

A total of 209 inspections were made under this Act and the following works effected.

Tanks and Pipelines tested	..	..	..	7
Vent pipes repaired	..	..	..	9
Fire Equipment made up to scale	..	..	..	16
Safety Warning Notices provided	..	..	..	8
Electrical Equipment checked	..	..	..	4

Meetings of the Midlands Petroleum Acts Administration Group were attended whenever possible and all efforts made to try and ensure a uniformity of administration of the Petroleum Act.

Theatres Act, 1843

Annual licences are issued under this Act for the public performance of stage plays at certain village halls and schools. Conditions are imposed for the general safety of members of the public who attend these performances. They control the maximum numbers to be admitted, the arrangements for seating and gangways, the adequacy of exits and the emergency lighting of these, the provision of satisfactory fire fighting appliances and the fire proofing of stage materials, and other general matters in the interests of public safety. A close liaison is maintained with the Fire Prevention Officers of the Staffordshire County Council, and their advice and recommendations are strictly adhered to.

Nine halls were licensed during the year and 32 inspections made to ensure that their conditions were fully complied with.

Prevention of damage by Pests Act, 1949

Treatments for the eradication of rats and mice at dwellings are carried out free of charge, business premises are charged on a time and materials basis. The following table shows the work carried out by your Rodent Operative in 1966.

Summary of Treatments	Local Authority Properties	Dwellings including Council Houses	Business Premises	Agricultural Premises	Total
No. of Properties Inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification	—	257	19	8	284
(b) Survey under the 1949 Act	7	89	—	—	96
No. of Properties Inspected which were found to be infested by					
Rats	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	7	238	14	8	267
Major	—	—	—	—	—
Mice	—	27	5	—	32
Minor	—	—	—	—	—
No. of Properties Treated	7	285	19	8	319
Total Treatments carried out	81	294	22	8	405

Sewer Treatments

A total of 149 manholes were baited in the annual 10% test baiting of sewers and once again no "takes" were recorded.

Animal Boarding Establishment Act, 1963

This Act is designed to regulate the keeping of boarding establishments for animals and to ensure that the animals are housed and cared for satisfactorily and that precautions are taken to prevent the spreading of diseases. There are seven licensed establishments in the district and 22 inspections were made.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

There are no licensed pet shops in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

(I am indebted to my Deputy Cleansing Superintendent, Mr. G. Draycott, for his assistance in the preparation of this section of the report.)

Staffing

Establishment—

	1966	1965	1964	1963
Refuse collectors, including reliefs	36	38	38	37
Cesspool and pan emptiers ..	5	5	5	5
Tip and Depot attendants ..	2	2	1	1
Litter Clearance and Salvage				
Baling	2	2	1	1
Cleansing Foreman	1	1	1	1
Vehicle Mechanics	3	3	2	2
Rodent Operative	1	1	1	1
	50	52	49	48

Labour Turnover—

Left employ voluntarily ..	16	11	16	6
Dismissed on disciplinary grounds	6	1	3	1
Retired	3	1	—	—
Casual worker	5	1	—	—
	30	14	19	7

Turnover Rate 60% 27% 39% 15%

Cause of Absence—

Sickness rate	6.0%	5.9%	6.6%	5.1%
Absentee rate	1.7%	2.0%	1.2%	0.8%
Days lost through accidents ..	102	30	35	42

Personal details—

Average age of employees ..	45	44	46	44
Average length of service (years)	8½	8	8½	7½
Disabled employees	2	1	3	3

A reduction of two men in establishment followed boundary alterations on 1st April, 1966, when 1,800 properties were transferred to the County Borough of Wolverhampton and 145 properties were absorbed from Tettenhall, Sedgley and Brierley Hill Urban Districts. To avoid transfers of men and redundancies, the reduction was obtained by natural wastage. The easing of the labour situation which was felt towards the end of the year was accompanied by a reduction in absenteeism. Another year passed without any loss of time caused by labour disputes.

Refuse Storage Arrangements

	1966	1965	1964	1963
Dustbins provided for fixed annual charge (including Council Houses)	—	147	520	558
Dustbins replaced under rateborne scheme	974	653	—	—
Dustbins sold	71	58	—	—
Paper sack holders provided under replacement schemes	478	121	43	—
Paper sack holders sold for new houses	17	46	1	—
Premises using paper sacks (at 31st December)	730	220	60	—

Following the introduction in 1965 of a rateborne dustbin provision scheme, the standard of receptacles in use for refuse storage was by the end of 1966 quite satisfactory. A simple and effective system of renewal of dustbins as soon as they become defective is now in operation and proceeds at a steady rate based mainly on drivers' reports. Satisfactory trial over an eighteen-month period with high-density blow-moulded black polythene dustbins has prompted a complete changeover from the heavier and more difficult to clean metal dustbin.

Storage arrangements at many shops, hotels and schools still leave something to be desired. It is hoped that at some time in the future, larger and more suitable receptacles will be provided to improve the appearance of the area around these premises and also give economy to the collection service. These premises may then enjoy a modernisation equivalent to the introduction of disposable sacks for refuse storage.

Paper Sack Refuse Schemes

By the end of the year 6% of properties collected from were using disposable paper sacks for refuse storage; both Council owned and privately owned properties, old and new, were included in these schemes. Surveys showed there were two main complaints from householders using these sacks: difficulty with hot ashes and the liability of the sack to tear. The improvement in hygiene was recognised almost unanimously. There is no doubt that greater care in disposal of waste is required of the householder to obtain full benefit from the system. The most recent survey, carried out in December when there is likely to be greatest criticism, shows that where freestanding, protected holders are provided in conjunction with a single ply, waterproofed sack, 56% of users prefer this system, 39% prefer the conventional dustbin and 5% are non-committal. It has been found that between 2 and 4% of sacks fail, mainly due to penetration by sharp objects in the refuse.

With this system, employees, like householders, are required to change their methods and this is not always achieved without some difficulty but the improved working conditions which undoubtedly result is, in the long term, bound to be a benefit to them and should have a good effect on future recruitment. The other advantage of dustlessness without expensive bin lifting equipment, noise reduction, and lesser fire risk in vehicles and on the tip, must all be weighed against the dislikes and disadvantages.

Work study recently carried out shows that the labour saving already more than covers the cost of sacks on present schemes and this saving is likely to increase as wage increases outstrip increases in paper sack costs. Soon it will be an economic proposition to introduce disposable sacks to areas where carries are less difficult.

Refuse Collection

	1966	1965	1964	1963
Premises collected from (at 31st December)	12,198	13,450	13,100	12,900
Total number of dustbins and sacks on rounds (at 31st December) ..	15,165	16,754	16,274	15,840
Premises having separate waste-paper collection	114	118	112	120
Productivity (bins/sacks emptied per man-hour)	12.5	12.0	11.8	11.4
Number of dustbins emptied in year	784,765	829,625	807,771	769,797

Although properties taken over as a result of boundary changes were more difficult to collect from than those given up, by the employment of a new vehicle and by judicious round alterations productivity rose well and a good response was made to the reduced working week which came into effect at the start of the year. Although paper sacks have obviously assisted in this productivity rise, even if two sacks are regarded as equivalent to one dustbin, there has still been an increase of 2% in 1966 over the already high figure for 1965.

A weekly frequency of back-door collection has been maintained throughout the year with the exception of bank holiday weeks and the period after Christmas 1965. For the first full year, the wastepaper collection service from shops has also been operated at a weekly interval with hardly any interruption. The free bulky refuse collection service was suspended on 1st April, 1966, as an economy measure but such refuse continued to be collected on a rechargeable basis.

The modern refuse vehicle with its high load compression has become a very complicated specialist machine demanding considerable know-how from the vehicle mechanics and, in spite of its arduous duties, it has to be kept in a fully roadworthy condition and able to cope with the ever increasing volume and amount of refuse produced.

Refuse Disposal

	1966	1965	1964	1963
Estimated annual tonnage disposed				
of	12,750	12,898	12,722	12,220

Any hold up on the one central refuse tip in use could cause a serious situation having regard to the number of Council and private vehicles which use the tip each day. Only one operator with one tractor is regularly employed to level and seal each day's refuse, maintain roadways and keep the tipping area screened. Nevertheless the tip has been properly controlled through 1966 and no tip fire occurred.

Pan Closet Emptying

	1966	1965	1964	1963
Premises with conservancy closets	198	247	276	437
Number of pans emptied in year ..	14,038	19,118	24,545	23,633

By the end of the year, the pan round occupied the vehicle and team for two days out of each week, the remainder of the working week being spent on cesspool emptying. A new vehicle, to replace the 1956 emptier now in use, was placed on order for delivery in Spring 1967.

Cesspool Emptying

	1966	1965	1964	1963
Premises draining to cesspools (31st December)	848	819	793	865
Number of cesspools emptied in year	2,573	2,415	2,557	2,674
Thousands of gallons removed from cesspools	3,813	3,320	3,439	4,264

On boundary changes, only four cesspools were "lost" to other authorities whilst 40 cesspools were "gained," and most of the latter were found to need very frequent attention to avoid overflowing onto roadways. Without the use of a new or additional vehicle some difficulty was experienced at times in keeping down to a maximum of seven days the waiting period between request and emptying. Nevertheless, the routine of emptying at a fixed interval was extended to certain properties with special difficulties, and it is hoped that this routine emptying can be made available to more properties in the near future. When time allowed, rechargeable work was undertaken in the cleaning of trade and effluent tanks at local factories.

The use of a larger capacity vehicle for this work, with the consequent reduction in unit costs, is not practicable in this district owing to risk of damage to private drives. The cheap surfacing of many drives with tarmacadam but without foundation results in

damage to the drive from the weight of the emptying vehicle, yet to stand out on the road increases the work involved and often causes a traffic hazard.

Litter Clearance

	1966	1965	1964	1963
Litter baskets sited in area ..	173	170	170	160
Total man-hours worked ..	4,722	3,213	2,960	2,821
Abandoned vehicles disposed of ..	4	5	2	1

Apart from a special Litter Patrol vehicle and a separate pedestrian-operated suction sweeping machine, a refuse vehicle was often at work during the year to augment the constant scavenging of road verges and dumping grounds. In addition, there are standing week-end arrangements for hand pickers to tidy-up village centres and shopping areas. Trunk road lay-bys are cleaned up fortnightly and all litter baskets are regularly emptied. Cleaning up after itinerant caravan dwellers also had to be undertaken far too often.

With the assistance of the Staffordshire Constabulary, legal action for litter offences was taken in three cases in the year—one of these involved the calling of a special court to deal with itinerant caravanners. Informal action was taken in seven other cases involving litter deposits near the highway. A standing arrangement drawn up with the agreement of the Chief Constable enables abandoned vehicles to be promptly removed to the Council Depot pending enquiries as to ownership.

Salvage

	1966	1965	1964	1963
Weight of baled wastepaper sold (tons)	33.4	21.9	9.1	15.1
Value of baled wastepaper sold ..	£342	£224	£80	£117

Early 1966 saw a return to exhortations for maximum waste-paper recovery but before the end of the year there were high stocks at mills and indications of price reductions to come. The value to the Council in carrying on this trading is not in the small amount of profit which can accrue but because it pays for the wages of a relief refuse collector who does the work when not required on a round.

Public Conveniences

It is impossible to ensure that at all times the seven widely scattered unattended conveniences are in a proper state of cleanliness, but regular cleaning of them is organised and frequent checks on this are carried out. Wash basins have been provided in all conveniences and frost-proofing of water service pipes by means of electrical heating tape.

Clearing of Obstructed Drains

	1966	1965	1964	1963
Total Drains relieved	450	460	427	581
Income from relief of single private drains	£46	£63	£43	£45

This work occupies about 30% of the time of an operator with a 5-cwt. van, his other duties being rodent control and miscellaneous public health work.

Vehicle Maintenance

	1966	1965	1964	1963
Number of road vehicles regularly serviced	32	32	31	30
Percentage of working time vehicles under repair	2.9%	3.5%	3.6%	3.5%
Total fleet mileage	349,020	298,350	281,281	264,540
Total accidents involving vehicles..	27	14	19	22
Mileage per road accident where Council driver to blame ..	49,860	59,670	40,183	33,068
Number of safe driving awards ..	18	17	16	—

Present traffic conditions and new commercial vehicle Regulations are dictating progressively higher standards of vehicle maintenance. Of great assistance in achieving these, are the excellent working conditions (with the possible exception of space heating) provided for the three mechanics at the Heath Mill Depot.

Because of the differing types of work that local authority transport is used on, there is bound to be a variety in the types of vehicle employed, but co-operation between the two user departments has achieved standardisation, with its obvious benefits, as much as is practicable, but it is necessary to consider this aspect whenever new vehicles are to be purchased.

Work Study (covering all services administered by Public Health Department).

	1966	1965	1964	1963
Percentage of bonus earned to basic pay	28%	29%	26%	26%
Annual productivity increase ..	+4%	+1%	+4%	+3%
Annual increase in men's total earnings	+2%	+7%	+4%	+10%
Amount paid out in bonus.. ..	£7,938	£7,759	£6,729	£6,166
Nett benefit to Council (based on reduced unit costs and allowing for administration costs).. ..	£14,900	£14,500	£13,800	£11,483

All outside employees are covered by incentive bonus schemes which are administered from within the department.

Inspections and Visits by Public Health Inspectors

Refuse Collection	351
Refuse Disposal	123
Litter Clearance	185
Transport Maintenance	175
Public Conveniences	73
Trade Refuse Collection	37
Salvage Recovery	12

Total Annual Costs of Cleansing Services

	1966/7	1965/6	1964/5	1963/4
	£	£	£	£
Nett Cost—	Approx.			
Refuse Collection	45,475	44,907	39,180	37,623
Refuse Disposal	3,510	3,423	2,885	2,788
Salvage	(Profit 27)	19	15	69
Litter Clearance	3,800	2,777	1,796	1,482
Pan Emptying	1,914	2,218	2,326	2,558
Cesspool Emptying	5,304	4,448	3,478	4,351
Public Conveniences	2,324	2,089	1,782	1,752
	62,300	59,881	51,462	50,583
Income—All Services	1,995	1,487	1,267	1,048
Gross Cost	64,295	61,368	52,729	51,671
Rate Burden	10½d.	9½d.	8¾d.	9d.

Overall Unit Costs of Various Cleansing Services

	1966/7	1965/6	1964/5	1963/4
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Dry Refuse Removal—				
Per ton collected	3 13 6	3 7 0	3 0 3	2 19 8
Per ton disposed of	5 3	4 10	4 5	4 5
Per dustbin emptied	1 2	1 0½	11¼	11¼
Collection and Disposal—				
Per premises per year	3 17 6	3 9 6	3 0 4	3 1 3
Pan Emptying—				
Per premises collected from per year	8 13 5	7 15 9	6 16 1	5 17 1
Per pan collected	3 1	2 5	2 0	2 2
Cesspool Emptying—				
Per cesspool emptied	2 3 2	2 1 6	1 11 1	1 12 0
Per premises per year (average)	6 14 2	5 15 2	4 14 8	5 6 11
Per 1,000 gallons removed	1 7 7	1 8 5	1 1 10	1 1 8

Total Fleet Operating Costs (All Council's vehicles—driver's wages not included)

	1966/7	1965/6	1964/5	1963/4
Vehicles in fleet	32/35	32	31/32	30
Gross Cost	£26,120	£23,354	£18,653	18,983
Percentage time vehicles under repair	2.9%	3.5%	3.6%	3.5%
Road Mileage covered	351,700	317,877	281,281	264,540
Cost per road mile	1/5¾d.	1/5½d.	1/4d.	1/5¼d.

Printed by
C. H. Bowcott & Sons,
Widnesbury
